

[CONFIDENTIAL.]

SELECTIONS

FROM THE

VERNACULAR NEWSPAPERS

PUBLISHED IN THE PANJAB,

NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES,

OUDH, CENTRAL INDIA, AND RAJPUTANA,

Received up to 27th December, 1881.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.

THE *Oudh Akhbár* of the 27th December, referring to the Fisher case, says that the High Court

The Fisher case.

Circulation,
715 copies.

has dealt somewhat leniently with the accused, especially with Mr. Fanthome, who has got off very cheaply. It is a matter of satisfaction that the charges which had been brought against Mr. Fisher were found to be utterly false. The counsel for the accused themselves declared that the charges were unfounded. The public had always been under the impression that Mr. Fisher was quite innocent. The *Pioneer* has made an unjust attack on the natives. It says that all the natives—the educated and the uneducated—must have fully believed the charges against Mr. Fisher. But our contemporary is mistaken. All respectable natives regarded Mr. Fisher as innocent and approved of his conduct in mixing freely with the natives. They were grieved at the folly of Ganga Ram in making false imputations to him. The unjust strictures of our contemporary on the general character of the natives clearly show that it is their enemy.

Circulation,
275 copies.

The *Sahas* (the Bengali paper of Allahabad) of the 24th December says that hitherto when any civilian committed an illegal act he went home on furlough. But this remedy was not a very satisfactory one, because there was always an apprehension that when the offending civilian returned from furlough, the injured party might again lodge a complaint against him. The officers who had served under Lord Lytton's Government have now discovered a better remedy. When a man suffers from rheumatism and cold, the doctors give him no medicine, but only give him some stimulant and feed him with soup for 21 or 41 days and leave him to his fate. If the time of his death has not arrived, he gradually recovers. A similar plan was adopted by the Government in the notorious Fisher case. The Government exonerated Mr. Fisher from all blame. This was like administering a stimulant to a rheumatic patient. The Government also retained him at Meerut. This was like feeding a rheumatic patient with soup. Having done this, the Government allowed him to prove his innocence at a court of law. The remedy was quite successful. Mr. Fisher was, so to speak, fully cured even before 21 days had elapsed. The new remedy, is really an excellent one. Mr. Fisher prosecuted Pandit Ganga Ram and Mr. Fanthome for defamation. He had to show in court somehow or other that the charges brought against him were false. In order that he might be able to do this, he was retained at Meerut. A Magistrate is a king in his district. As Mr. Fisher was not transferred from Meerut, no inhabitant of that place could have the courage to give evidence against him. Even though the High Court might have been convinced of the truth of the charges that had been brought against him, it had to decide the case according to the evidence before it, and was consequently obliged to punish the accused. The local Government is wholly to blame in this matter. We cannot consider it to be so ignorant as not to have foreseen that

Mr. Fisher's presence at Meerut would prevent the people of that place from giving evidence against him. The question is what reasons induced the Government to retain him at Meerut. The public cannot but entertain the sentiments we have expressed in this article until it is made acquainted with those reasons.

The same paper, referring to the anti-opium agitation in England, states that opium has, as it were, penetrated into the veins and arteries of the Chinese: It is inconceivable that they can now give up its use. If we do not supply them with opium, they will import the drug from Persia and other countries. Under these circumstances it would be very unwise to abandon a source of revenue which yields 8 millions sterling a year. Lord Lytton, the author of the late Kabul war, abolished a portion of the cotton import duties with the professed object of benefiting the poor in India, but really to benefit the Manchester mill-owners. He also reduced the duty on salt. The Secretary of State has lately promised to the cotton-lords of Manchester to repeal the remaining portion of the cotton import duty. We are glad to see that Lord Ripon is not in favour of the repeal of the duty. In what way, we ask, have the poor been benefited by the partial remission of the cotton import duty and the reduction of the salt duty by Lord Lytton? They have still to pay the same price for cloth and salt as they paid formerly. If any party has been benefited, it is the rich traders. It appears from the *Englishman* and the *Pioneer* that, in the event of the entire abolition of the duty levied on cloth imported into India, an income-tax would be introduced. The weak party always goes to the wall. The levy of the license-tax presses severely upon the people. They are now threatened with an income-tax. If the opium revenue, which amounts to no less than 8 millions sterling, is abandoned, would not the people be required to make good the loss? We hope that Lord Ripon will not agree to the stoppage of the Indian opium traffic.

Undoubtedly it does not become a civilized nation like the British to demoralize the Chinese by importing the poisonous drug in question into their country. But the liberal-minded anti-opium agitators should first direct their attention to the improvement of the condition of India, which has enriched England and which is her right hand, rather than to that of China. The natives are addicted not only to the use of opium, but also to that of *ganja*, *charas*, and spirituous liquors.

The same paper, referring to the Calcutta telegram of the 7th December about the repeal of the Vernacular Press Act, argues that there was no necessity whatever for the passing of the Act, that the Bengalis fully appreciate the advantages of British rule, and that no Bengali paper ever published any seditious article ; and offers thanks to Lord Ripon for the repeal of the Act.

Circulation,
150 copies.

The Panjab Punch of the 20th December publishes a picture in which the Government of

The same.
Circulation, 381
diary
woman seated on a chair. She holds a bunch of flowers, called the freedom of the Vernacular Press, in her left hand, and some native editors stand before her with their hands folded. The letter press is :—*The Punch*—“ Let us see when they succeed in attaining their object.”

Circulation,
225 copies.

The Delhi Punch of the 19th December publishes a picture in which the editor is represented as meeting and welcoming an English lady who is called the liberty of the Vernacular Press.

The Kavivachan Sudha of the 19th December and the *Kashi Patrika* of the 23rd December express great satisfaction at the appointment of Raja Shiva Prasad, C.S.I., as an additional Member of the Viceroy's Legislative Council.

The appointment of Raja Shiva Prasad, C.S.I., as an additional member of the Vice-
roy's Legislative Council.

The *Rahbar-i-Hind* (Lahore) of the 22nd December complains that justice at the ordinary panchayats is very costly and ruins the suitors, and therefore urges that panchayats should be established for the decision of small suits.

Circulation,
517 copies.

The *Najm-al-Hind* (Moradabad) of the 22nd December states that in the Panjab every municipal committee has appointed a doctor whose duty is to see that no native druggist, sweetmeat-seller, or grain-seller sells any rotten or adulterated medicine or any article of food. He occasionally visits the shops, and if he finds any rotten or adulterated article in any shop, he reports the matter to the Magistrate. The Magistrate has the article buried under the ground and punishes the shop-keeper. The municipal committees in the North-Western Provinces should also appoint such doctors.

The *Vritta Dhárá* (published in Marathi at Dhar) of the 19th December (received on the 24th idem), referring to the rumour about the entire abolition of the cotton import duties and the revival of the income-tax, remarks that the Home Government must be aware, when the income-tax was formerly levied, what discontent it produced in the country. However, it was justifiable to some extent, inasmuch as it was levied to defray the expenditure incurred in suppressing the mutiny of 1857. But the Home Government is now going to re-impose it simply in order to win the goodwill of the cotton-lords of Manchester. The measure in question is objectionable on several grounds:—*Firstly*, the tax would press severely on the people; *secondly*, the remission of cotton import duties would make Manchester goods cheaper, and the result would be that the Indian cotton industry would be ruined; *thirdly*, an increase in the import of foreign goods would drain the country of its wealth. The Government

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Circulation,
125 copies.

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would be perfectly justified in imposing an income-tax or any other similar tax in an emergency, but the motive which has now induced the Home Government to revive the income-tax is quite unjustifiable. It will be remembered what great discontent was created among the English by an undue favour shown by King Harold to the Dutch (sic), and what the result of this was. The abolition of the cotton import duties would be equally objectionable. It is our earnest prayer that it may not be attended with similar consequences. The natives are a very loyal people, and therefore there is no fear that they would ever rebel against the Government. But an unjust act on the part of Government cannot become a just one, because the people are loyal and obedient. It is believed that the Government of India is opposed to the revival of the income-tax. If Lord Ripon succeeds in preventing the imposition of the tax, he would acquire great fame like General Malcolm.

POST-OFFICE.

The *Naiyer-i-Azim* of the 19th December thanks the Government for the reduction of postage

on newspapers from half an anna to a quarter of an anna, but remarks that the postage has to be paid in advance for three months. This system is

open to several objections:—(1) If the circulation of any paper falls off during the three months for which postage has been paid in advance, no refund is granted to the editor. (2) In the event of an increase in the circulation, the editor has to put half-anna postage stamps on the copies in excess of the number for which the postage has been paid in advance for three months. Moreover, suppose an editor is obliged by some unforeseen cause to suspend the publication of his paper for three or four months after he has paid the postage in advance for three months. He will have to bear a great loss, because the Government will not refund him the postage. The Government should make quarter-anna postage

Circulation,
120 copies.

stamps for newspapers. In the meantime the Government should cancel the rule about the payments being made in advance for three months and allow the editors to pay the postage each time at the time of making over copies to the post-office.

MISCELLANEOUS.

A local correspondent of the *Akhbár-i-Am* (Lahore) of the

Circulation,
1,700 copies.

The figures of Hindu gods and Musalman prophets stamped on cloth by the mill-owners in England.

21st December states that a Musalman showed a handkerchief, on which the figure of the Hindu god Ganesh was stamped, to a Hindu, and told him that

he always carried beef over the head of his god. The Hindu retorted that he always carried pork over the head of his prophet. This led to a quarrel between them. The writer urges that the Government should prevent the cotton mill-owners in England from stamping the figures of Hindu gods and Musalman prophets on cloth.

The *Akhbár-i-Am* (Lahore) of the 17th December (received Babu Harish Chandra's. on the 21st idem) refers to a pamphlet on cow-killing. pamphlet which has been published by

Circulation,
1,700 copies
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Babu Harish Chandra of Benares on the subject of cow-killing and quotes an extract from the preface of the pamphlet, an abstract translation of which is as follows:—It is only we (the Hindus) who can comprehend the sufferings to which kine have been exposed since the Musalmans set their thorny foot on this holy land. True, Europeans also eat beef, but their number in India is very small compared with the Musalmans. A great portion of the flesh consumed by them is imported from abroad. Moreover, the kine that are killed for them are not killed openly. The Musalmans kill kine in a public manner, and this severely wounds our feelings. It is a matter of deep regret that the Europeans are more favourably inclined towards them. The cause of this partiality is not far to seek. There is no other country in which we could take shelter. But Turkey, Persia, Egypt, Arabia, and Kabul are all open to the Musalmans. We are docile, but they are unruly. We are accustomed to live in a state

of slavery, but the case with them is just the reverse. The motto of our religion is peace, but that of theirs is war. We are idle, but they are active. Above all, disunion prevails among us, but they are united. We all deal with Muhammadan pleaders, mukhtars, artisans, prostitutes, &c. There are few among us who would stop their dealings with them. The question is what is to be done to check the slaughter of kine. The chief difficulty is that the Government does not listen to us. Under these circumstances, we should ourselves do what we can to check the evil. We should raise subscriptions for the support of kine. We should endeavour to induce the Musalmans to refrain from cow-killing by entreaties, by appealing to their avarice, and by convincing them that they depend upon us for their support. We should keep up the agitation against cow-slaughter. Every Hindu paper should publish at least one article a month on the subject. The editor then remarks that the author has in this way shown great enthusiasm in the preface. But we regret to state that the display of such enthusiasm is calculated to injure and not to promote our interests. If we bring any charges against the Musalmans, they would bring counter-charges against us. We and our Muhammadan brethren have the same wants and feelings and our interests are identical. The condition of our country will not be improved until all classes of the community sympathize with each other.

Circulation,
490 copies.

The *Koh-i-Nar* of the 21st December states that the Council of Regency complaints that have been published and the *Akhbar-i-Am*. by some papers against the Council of Regency at Patiala are unfounded. If it is true, as is rumoured, that some râises of Patiala have instigated the editors of those papers to publish the complaints, their conduct is very reprehensible. They should remember that, when the administration was in their hands, it was not altogether free from faults. On the whole the Council of Regency has been conducting the administration in a satisfactory way.

LIST OF PAPERS EXAMINED.

No.	NAME.	LOCALITY.	LANGUAGE.	MONTHLY, WEEKLY, OR OTHERWISE.	NAME OF PUBLISHER.	DATE OF PAPER.	DATE OF RECEIPT.	CIRCULATION.
1	<i>Ajub-i-Hind</i>	Jallandhar,	Urdu	Weekly	Barkat Ali	Decr. 24th	Decr. 26th	...
2	<i>Ajub-i-Panjab</i>	Lahore	Ditto	Bi-weekly	Divan Buta Singh,	" 19th & 23rd	" 22nd & 26th	...
3	<i>Ajra-i-Albder</i>	Agra	Ditto	Weekly	Khwaja Yusuf Ali,	" 14th	" 21st	225 copies.
4	<i>Ajra-i-Albder</i>	Amroha	Ditto	Ditto	Ali Hussain Khan	" 15th	" "	115 "
5	<i>Ajra-i-Sikandri</i>	Moradabad	Ditto	Ditto	Ahmad Bekhan	" 17th	" 22nd	60 "
6	<i>Ajra-i-Albder</i>	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Dilawar Ali	" 28th	" 26th	64 "
7	<i>Ajra-i-4/aw</i>	Meerut	Ditto	Ditto	Kamta Prasad	" 17th & 24th	" 21st & 27th	140 "
8	<i>Albder-i-Az</i>	Lahore	Ditto	Bi-weekly	Mukund Ram	" 17th & 21st	" 21st & 26th	1,700 "
9	<i>Albder-i-Hind</i>	Lucknow,	Ditto	Weekly	Mirza Faiyaz Beg	" 23rd	" 26th	80 "
10	<i>Albder-i-Albder</i>	Delhi	Ditto	Ditto	Yakhr-al-din	" 20th	" 24th	80 "
11	Aligarh Institute	Aligarh	Urdu, Eng-	Bi-weekly	Golab Rai	" 20th & 24th	" 22nd & 25th	276 copies (in- cluding 68 copies taken by Govt.)
12	<i>Ajman-i-Hind</i>	Lucknow,	Urdu	Weekly	Chandan Lal	" 19th	" 26th	136 copies.
13	<i>Ajman-i-Panjab</i>	Lahore	Urdu	Ditto	Mir Nisar Ali	" 20th	" 24th	425 copies (in- cluding 200 copies taken by Govt.)
14	<i>Ajra-i-Albder</i>	Lucknow,	Urdu	Ditto	Tegh Bahadur	" 8th & 15th	" 22nd	125 copies.
15	<i>Ajra-i-Sunat</i>	Lahore	Ditto	Monthly	Mohammed Hussain	" For July	" 27th	350 "

List of papers examined—(continued).

No.	Name.	Locality.	Language.	Monthly, Weekly, or otherwise.	Name of Publisher.	Date of Paper.	Date of Recdfr.	Circulation.
16	<i>Ashraf-al-Akhbar</i> ...	Delhi	Urdu	Tri-monthly	Mirza Khan	Decr. 21st	1881.	100 copies.
17	<i>Dabda-b-i-Qaisari</i> ...	Bareilly	Ditto	Weekly	Thakur Prasad	" 18th	"	225 "
18	<i>Dabda-b-i-Sikandri</i> ...	Rampur	Ditto	Ditto	Muhammad Hussain,	" 19th	"	410 "
19	<i>Delhi Punch</i> ...	Lahore	Ditto	Ditto	Hussain Ali	" "	"	225 "
20	<i>Gurmukhi Akhbar</i> ...	Ditto	Gurmukhi	Ditto	Gurmukh Singh	" 21st	"	300 "
21	<i>Geelior Gazette</i> ...	Gwalior	Hindi-Urdu	Ditto	Oonk Charan	" 18th	"	300 "
22	<i>Jaipur Gazette</i> ...	Jaipur	Hindi	Bi-weekly	Mahabir Prasad	" 21st & 29th	"	300 "
23	<i>Jalwa-i-Tir</i> ...	Meerut	Urdu	Weekly	Rao Ganeshi Lal	" 24th	"	50 "
24	<i>Kairanah</i> ...	Lucknow	Ditto	Ditto	Muhammad Yaqub	" 19th	"	250 "
25	<i>Kashmir Patrika</i> ...	Benares	Hindi-Urdu	Ditto	Baleshwar Prasad...	" 23rd	"	725 copies (including 370 copies taken by Govt.)
26	<i>Kari Vachan Sudha</i> , 27 <i>Khair Khwah-i-Pas</i> , 28 <i>Koh-i-Nar</i> ...	Ditto	Hindi	Ditto	Chintamani Rao	" 19th	"	350 copies.
		Urdu	Ditto	Brij Lal	" 20th	"	600 "
				Bi-weekly	Jawwad Ali	" 21st & 24th	"	490 copies (including 86 copies taken by Govt.)
29	<i>Lytton Gazette</i> ...	Delhi	Ditto	Ditto	Buleqi Das	" 24th	"	150 copies.
30	<i>Mawer Gazzette</i> ...	Jodhpur	Hindi-Urdu	Ditto	Gobardhan Das	" 19th	"	100 "
31	<i>Mashir-i-Qaisar</i> ...	Lucknow	Urdu	Ditto	Ghulam Muhammad	" 20th	"	200 "

32	Mulir-i-Nizroz	... Bijnor	... Ditto	... Muhib-ul-lah	... 15th & 23rd	" 21st & 27th	90	"
33	Muraqa-i-Tahzib	... Lucknow	... Ditto	... Bi-monthly,	" 15th	" 22nd	125	"
34	Multa-i-Nir	... Cawnpore	... Ditto	... Weekly	" 22nd	" 24th	82	"
35	Naiyer-i-Azam	... Moradabad	... Ditto	... Ditto	" 19th	" 23rd	120	"
36	Naiyer-i-Hind	... Allahabad,	... Ditto	... Ditto	" 18th	" 25th
37	Nairang Mardan	... Muttar	... Ditto	... Monthly	" Meva Ram	For November	198	"
38	Najmal Akbar	... Etawah	... Ditto	... Weekly	" Ruhullah Khan	Decr. 24th	200	"
39	Najmal Hind	... Moradabad	... Ditto	... Ditto	" A utar Kishen	" 22nd	27th	"
40	Nasim-i-Hind	... Fatehpur,	... Ditto	... Ditto	" Ambika Prasad	" 20th	106	"
41	Nir Akden	... Ludhiana,	... Ditto	... Ditto	" Revd. E. M. Wherry	" 22nd	700	"
42	Nir-al-Anear	... Cawnpore,	... Ditto	... Ditto	" Muhammad Yaqub,	" 24th	387	"
43	Oudh Akbar	... Lucknow,	... Ditto	... Daily	" Sheo Prasad	" 21st to 27th	715 copies (including 90 copies taken by Govt.)	"
44	Oudh Panet,	... Lahore	... Ditto	... Weekly	" Sajjad Hussain	20th & 17th	25th	"
45	Panjab Akbar	... Delhi	... Ditto	... Bi-weekly	" Muhammad Azim	" 14th & 17th	300	"
46	Panjab Panek	... Patiala	... Ditto	... Weekly	" Fareh-al-din	" 20th	160	"
47	Patiala Akbar	... Meerut	... Ditto	... Ditto	" Rikhi Kesh	" 19th	300	"
48	Prince of Wales'	... Gazette.	... Ditto	... Ditto	" Rae Ganeshi Lal	" 20th	50	"
49	Rehbar-i-Hind	... Lahore	... Ditto	... Bi-weekly	" Nadir Ali Shah	" 22nd	517	"
50	Rehman Akbar	... Delhi	... Ditto	... Bi-monthly,	" Maha Narain	" 24th	300	"
51	Sohila Kopperha	... Kapurthala,	... Ditto	... Weekly	" Sharif-al-din	" 26th	455	"
52	Sohiq-w-Zillat	... Bahawal-	... Ditto	... Ditto	" Abdul Quds	" 22nd	455	"
53	Sohiq	Pur.	... Allahabad,	... Ditto	" Rajni Kant Bisu	" 24th	275	"
54	Sohiq Kritis Sudha-	... Udaipur	... Bengali	... Ditto	" Banaki Dhar	" 19th	235	"
55	Sohiq-i-Tir	... Urdu	... Urdu	... Weekly	" Haider Ali	" 20th	325	"
56	Sohiq-i-Hind	... Moradabad	... Ditto	... Ditto	" Banwari Lal	" 23rd	300	"
57	Sohiq-i-Saddi	... Agra	... Ditto	... Monthly	" Khwaja Yusuf Ali, For Jamadi-us-	" 23rd	300	"

List of papers examined—(concluded).

No.	NAME.	LOCALITY.	LANGUAGE.	MONTHLY, WEEKLY, OR OTHERWISE.	NAME OF PUBLISHER.	DATE OF PAPER.	DATE OF RECEIPT.	CIRCULATION.
58	Tibykh-al-Alkar	...	Lucknow,	Bi-monthly,	Muhammad Ali	Decr. 22nd	Decr. 24th	...
59	Turjya-i-Hind	...	Meerut	Urdu Ditto	Wilayat Ali	" 2nd & 9th	" 21st	...
60	Victoria Paper	...	Sialkot	Urdu Ditto	Gyan Chand	" 18th & 20th	" 24th	900 copies.
61	Vriti Dhar'a	...	Dhar	Marathi Urdu	Hari Bhaskar	" 19th	" 23rd	125 "
62	Waqya Alan	...	Ghazipur,	Ditto	Siraj-al-din Ahmad,	" "	" 250	" "

ALLAHABAD,
The 31st December, 1881. }

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